

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 February 2005 (17.02.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/015878 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04L 29/06**, 12/58, 12/14, 12/56

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/002438

(22) International Filing Date: 9 June 2004 (09.06.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0316293.0 11 July 2003 (11.07.2003) GB

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

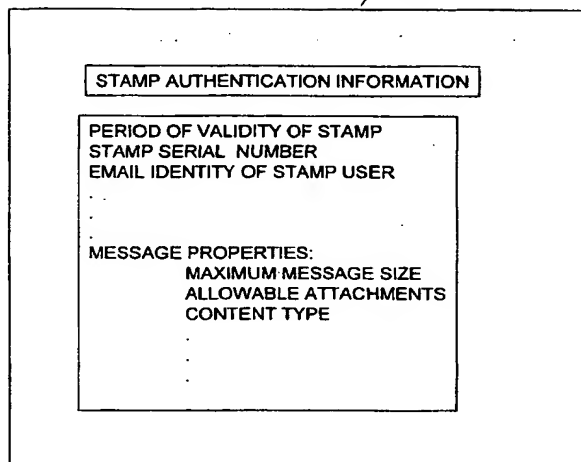
Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUSES FOR AUTHENTICATION SCHEME AND FOR NETWORK ACCESS USING AN ELECTRONIC FRANK

601



(57) Abstract: An electronic frank, e.g. electronic stamp, in use arranged to be associated with data to be transmitted over a telecommunications network (405) to an intended recipient at a destination address (408), the electronic frank comprising a data structure containing a set of at least one authenticated parameter-value, each parameter-value associated with a characteristic of the data to be transmitted, the data structure arranged in use to be processed by an apparatus (406) arranged to forward the data towards the intended recipient it is transmitted over the telecommunications network, whereby the apparatus is able to determine from the contents of the data-structure if the electronic frank conforms to at least one predetermined criteria prior to the data being transmitted to the destination address.

WO 2005/015878 A1



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